

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8248

S E C R E T ACCRA 4382

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: ASYLUM REQUEST (DR. JANOS PATAKI)

1. MR. PRESIDENT: I HAD HOPED TO RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING MATTER THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS BUT THIS ROUTE APPEARS TO HAVE FAILED. I HAVE, HOWEVER, INFORMED INGERSOLL OF THE CASE AND HE HAS THE PERTINENT INFORMATION. I RESPECTIFULLY REQUEST THAT YOUR GOOD OFFICE INTERVENE AND BRING THIS MATTER TO A SUCCESSFUL AND JUST CONCLUSION. I FURTHER REQUEST THAT NO MENTION OF MY NAME BE CONNECTED WITH THIS MATTER SO THAT I MAY CONTINUE TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR FOR THE U.S. TO THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA.

2. THE HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO GHANA, DR. JANOS PATAKI, HAS REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES FOR HIMSELF, HIS WIFE AND TWO YOUNG SONS. HE TOLD ME OF HIS PLANS AT A CANADIAN RECEPTION IN ACCRA ON JULY 1 AND ASKED ME TO INTRODUCE HIM AND TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ON JULY 3 WITH OUR AMBASSADOR IN BERN. I PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH A MEMBER OF MY STAFF WHO MADE THE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS. OUR SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN BERN WERE ADVISED.

3. THE HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR AND HIS FAMILY LEFT FOR SWITZERLAND EARLY IN THE MORNING OF JULY 2 OSTENSIBLY EN ROUTE TO HUNGARY FOR NORMAL HOME LEAVE. HE CONTACTED THE SWISS AUTHORITIES AND MADE KNOWN HIS REQUEST FOR ASYLUM IN AN "ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRY." HE CONTACTED OUR EMBASSY IN

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BERN ON JULY 3 BY TELEPHONE. THE SWISS AUTHORITIES TOLD HIM

TO GO TO THE U.S. CONSULAR OFFICER ON JULY 7 AFTER THE JULY 4 HOLIDAY. AMBASSADOR PATAKI WENT TO THE CONSULAR OFFICE AT 2:00 PM JULY 7. HE WAS TOLD HE COULD APPLY FOR "CONDITIONAL" ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES OR COULD APPLY FOR REFUGEE STATUS THROUGH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

4. AMBASSADOR PATAKI'S REQUEST FOR ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES WAS TURNED DOWN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON JULY 9. ON JULY 10 THE HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS BEGAN ASKING QUESTIONS IN SWITZERLAND ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS FAMILY AS THEY WERE DUE TO ARRIVE IN BUDAPEST ON JULY 4. AND TODAY, MR. PRESIDENT, THE LOCAL HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT PATAKI AND HIS FAMILY ARE MISSING. I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE NOW IN GRAVE DANGER AND THAT URGENT ATTENTION BE PAID TO HIS CASE.

5. I HAVE KNOWN AMBASSADOR PATAKI FOR SEVEN MONTHS AND HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE AN INTELLIGENT, THOUGHTFUL INDIVIDUAL WHO APPEARS TO BE COMPLETELY DISILLUSIONED BY COMMUNISM.

6. MR. PRESIDENT, DURING THIS, OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY, HOW CAN WE TURN AWAY A FAMILY WHO SEEKS FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE FROM OPPRESSIVE RULE? HAVEN'T WE ALWAYS ACCEPTED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WHO SEEK FREEDOM? THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BASIC LAW OF OUR COUNTRY AND I BELIEVE ACCOUNTS FOR OUR GREATNESS AS A NATION AND THE MELDING OF PEOPLE OF ALL THE WORLD WHO SEEK FREEDOM AND WHO PROVE TO BE INDUSTRIOUS AND LOYAL ADDITIONS TO OUR FREE SOCIETY.

7. MR. PRESIDENT, I REPEAT, IN ORDER FOR ME TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR TO GHANA, I REQUEST THAT NO MENTION OF MY NAME BE ASSOCIATED WITH AMBASSADOR PATAKI'S CASE.

8. I DO PRAY THAT YOU CAN HELP THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS FAMILY TO ACHIEVE THE FREEDOM THEY SO DESPERTELY SEEK.
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